

From: [Tricia Pfeiffer](#)
To: [Kyle Olson](#)
Cc: [Johanna Miller](#)
Subject: Fw: air concern
Date: 03/16/2012 01:03 PM

The air issue is a continuing concern...

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----- Forwarded by Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US on 03/16/2012 01:02 PM -----

From: "jacki" <jboid@dia.net>
To: "Semerad, Jim L." <jsemerad@nd.gov>
Cc: Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/16/2012 01:00 PM
Subject: Re: air concern

Considering the fact that I saw the vehicle here that day, I sent you an email as to them being here and asked you to have them stop here, they did not. The tests you are stating done here, it is almost impossible, as to the fact that no one ever stepped out of the vehicle at any point as I watched them while they drove around the property, actually did not even see them stop at the NE corner as they came around the turn there, they just drove slowly around the property and looked. They were at the SE corner of my property for not even a minute, when they went by my driveway I got in my pickup and followed them and when I approached them they speeded off. How was he able to get to the SW corner of my property, you cannot drive to this point, it is walk in access only at least 1/2 mile. By the way, it just happens that I did walk back to this point, I have several pictures and video taken at the time he stated he was there. The only thing in these pictures is a fence line and a bubbling creek, no Kris Roberts like you state. I would like to know how they got any readings on any outside air inside a vehicle the back windows closed, the front window down about 4 inches on the drivers side? The winds that day were well over 30mph also. You said in an email earlier that day you would have them come to my house when they were in the area, they did not do this either. Why are you so afraid to come into my yard and take any readings? When did Kris Roberts start working in the air quality department of the ND Health Dept, I was under the impression he worked in the water department?

I have sent you several reports of air testing done ON OUR PROPERTY, have you

gone over these tests and come up with any testing to do for the extreme high amounts of benzene, toluene, methane, acetone, chemicals, ethanol, ect ? There is no question about what is in the air and that IT IS THERE, the question here is what the state of ND Health Department is doing to find the source and correct it. You have played enough games with my life and I have had enough dead cattle and animals that it is time for this problem to come to an end. If the state of ND cannot afford to invest in the proper testing equipment to do this job perhaps we should take donations from the families of the people dying here and the landowners losing livestock. Maybe get an air monitor in the Williston area to get daily readings? Filing false reports is getting no one anywhere. Until this is done properly and the problem taken care of I will continue to take air samples and collect data for my attorney.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Semerad, Jim L.](#)

To: [jacki](#)

Cc: pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 12:25 PM

Subject: RE: air concern

Jackie:

In addition to previous emails outlining information from Oasis, Kris Roberts was in your area on the 14th and I was able to contact him and see if he could conduct an inspection in the area of your farm.

Kris able to obtain some data and he wrote up the following information:

I had with me a 4 gas meter (air pump equipped), as well as a hydrogen sulfide monitor (I was working oil field issues). In addition, I have regularly gone through (and passed) odor evaluator certification many times over the years. My latest certification was in May, 2010.

The following is the data I collected:

Started circuit 13:08 CDT. Breeze brisk from W-SW, temperature 50 F.
4 gas meter and H2S meter both calibrated 2/24/2012, with 161 days remaining on the calibration.
All readings taken with all SUV windows open, and internal environmental system shut down, to allow full air flow.

NW Sec corner – 13:08
4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%
H2S monitor: 0 ppm
No odors detected

N ¼ line (1/2 mile east of NW quarter) (downwind from Oasis well sites)
4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%

H2S monitor: 0 ppm
No odors detected

NE Sec Corner (north of Schilke Farmstead) – 13:20
4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%
H2S monitor: 0 ppm
No odors detected

Detected slight, normal, animal farmyard odor as I passed downwind of the Schilke farmstead and barns

E ¼ line (1/2 mile south of NE corner)
4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%
H2S monitor: 0 ppm
No odors detected

SE Sec Corner (south of Schilke Farmstead) – 13:29
4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%
H2S monitor: 0 ppm
No odors detected

S ¼ line (1/2 mile west of SE corner)
4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%
H2S monitor: 0 ppm
No odors detected

SW Sec Corner – 13:36
4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%
H2S monitor: 0 ppm
No odors detected

W ¼ line (1/2 mile north of SW corner) – nearly directly upwind of Schilke farmstead)
4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%
H2S monitor: 0 ppm
No odors detected

NW Sec Corner – 13:43
4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%
H2S monitor: 0 ppm
No odors detected

Wind direction from W-SW and brisk. Temp still 50 F. Did not exceed 25 mph during circuit.

Something that may be of interest to you is new regulations that have been developed by the NDIC. There is an article at: http://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/industry-new-nd-oil-rules-could-curb-drilling/article_f1f8693a-6ef2-11e1-a0f6-001871e3ce6c.html

Jim Semerad

Division of Air Quality

State Dept. of Health

(701) 328-5188

jsemerad@nd.gov

Division Website:

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/AQ/Airhomepage.htm>

From: jacki [mailto:jboid@dia.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:08 PM
To: Semerad, Jim L.
Cc: pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Re: air concern

The problem seemed to be coming from the south yesterday, although the air quality is almost as bad today. I am not sure what is to gain by just checking wind direction without doing any testing with canisters and the hand held meter used by the ND Health Dept tells us absolutely nothing -will not even detect the gases we are dealing with. I ordered 2 more suma canisters today, seems the flare being out at the Oasis well site has not solved any problems out here, I suspect there are still gasses coming off that site and others in the area. I had a meeting yesterday with environment company, the fact that the flare is does not mean gases are not still being released, these systems fail quite often and it is possible we are getting even more gas than before, I suspect this may be what is going on. Steve has extensive knowledge on this operation, and is probably one of the most experienced techs in this area he also said this is a very poor system and if not installed and checked properly it has high failure rate. He has found a very high percentage of sure fire system in the area he works not working properly, not even installed correctly. Seems the equation of many wells, many inexperienced and untrained personnel working in the field equals disaster in this case.

The expense of testing we have been forced to do to find the cause of this problem as gotten quite out of hand, The cost of just 1 air test is over \$600.00, I do not think it is right that a private land owner should have this burden when it is the responsibility

of the state to ensure this industry is safe to the public.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Semerad, Jim L.](#)

To: [Tricia Pfeiffer](#) ; [Schumacher, Tom O.](#) ; [jacki](#)

Cc: [O'Clair, Terry L.](#)

Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:41 AM

Subject: RE: air concern

Fyi:

In response to the complaint below, we have contacted Oasis and reviewed meteorological information over the period in question (see email below).

Based on this information, it does not appear that there is an obvious source of air contaminants that may be the cause of the problem. This is contrary to the information provided in the email (pipeline issue). We will conduct an air quality complaint inspection the next time we are in the area, as we have done in the past. However, our inspections have not shown problems (measurements or odors) so we have not been able to find the problem or provide any solutions to any of the issues that Jacki has complained of that relate to ambient air quality.

Also note that, with the likelihood of dry conditions and the traffic on dirt roads, we expect more road dust this year compared to last. The Department is studying various dust suppressants to determine what is best from an environmental standpoint.

Tricia: Please forward this information to other interested EPA personnel that may be involved.

Jim Semerad

Division of Air Quality

State Dept. of Health

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Division Website:

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/AQ/Airhomepage.htm>

Jim,

The Williston data shows that winds were calm from midnight 3/12 on Sunday evening through Monday morning then winds became strong from the west with gusts up to 39mph all afternoon until 7pm. Monday evening through Tuesday 3/13 morning winds were calm until 9am. After 9am to present time Tuesday morning, the winds were from the south, southeast and south/southeast at 4mph to 9mph.

The Oasis well is located west of the residence and is tied into a gas line so the flare should only operate when the gas line or compressor station is down for repairs. Winds were very strong all afternoon yesterday. The frac job on the well 3 miles to the east of the residence is not upwind from the residence and should not affect the residence.

*Todd Peterson, CHMM
Environmental Scientist
ND Dept of Health
Division of Air Quality*

From: Tricia Pfeiffer [<mailto:Pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:24 AM
To: Schumacher, Tom O.
Cc: Semerad, Jim L.
Subject: Fw: air concern

Tom,

Is there someone in your shop that can help with air concerns? Jim Semerad from Dept of Health has been involved, however to the best of my knowledge he has not collected any samples via soma canisters. I believe the extent of sampling has been conducted using a hand held meter. This has been an on-going concern.

I will call you shortly :)

Tricia Rios Pfeiffer, Engineer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region8
Watershed & Aquifer Protection Unit

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----- Forwarded by Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US on 03/13/2012 10:11 AM -----

From: "jacki" <jboid@dia.net>
To: Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/13/2012 06:05 AM
Subject: air

I know you are not air quality, but I seem to get to response from that department. I do not understand what is going on out here, the flare behind me is out some days and burning some days, but our air doesn't seem to get any better. It was terrible all night, I got very little sleep and this morning my head is just pounding and my cat is vomitting yellow slime. I know there is a frack job in process down the road to the east but that is about 3 miles away. I have always questioned if there is a pipeline leak out here somewhere, the gas is that bad.